

**RICHMOND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2017**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Town Center Meeting Room, 203 Bridge St.**

**Present:** Jake Davignon, Judy Rosovsky, Bob Low, Elizabeth (Ibit) Wright, Mary Houle

**19:33 Started Meeting**

**Public comments: Public Attendees:** Guy Roberts, RCC applicant

**Comments on May 2017 meetings:**

Select board declined request for funding at \$1000 for Lake Iroquois, then approved after consulting with RCC and receiving our recommendation

Richmond does have coastline along the lake per Bob Low research....Some could be wetland. Richmond residents do use the land/lake. 12% season pass holders are Richmond residents.

HinesburgCC objected ton herbicide use at Lake Iroquois

Amendments, May meeting

Page 3 line 8: "Applied for funding by RCC..." Urban Community Forest Grant - UCF

Total cost of property Andrews purchase and related costs.

Miscellaneous clarifications

May meeting amendments approved as amended by RCC.

**19:41 Additions, amendments to agenda; other business arising:**

Mary Houle: REAP development, why on RCC agenda? Town will send plans for review to RCC, is common practice (Judy)

Controversy over Willis Barn being historical. Changing barn, not landscape, was the issue at hand.

Notice of site plan abutting Willis Hill property has been presented to RCC, submitted day of meeting (6/13). Comments on document are welcome to be submitted to Judy. Response to Planning Commission is not required.

**19:51 Updates:**

**Friends of Gillett Pond** – SB approved 150k; 4 year expiration date, RENEWABLE

600-900k land purchase, design, and complete repair.

**Lake Iroquois** – SB approved; no treatment likely 2017

**River erosion** – SB approved riprap; Jon Kart's developing a project. This is separate from reforestation plan/efforts. DRB needs to approve this plan prior to implementation. RCC needs to ask the Town for more information regarding this project, prior to final approval. Impact, long term, downstream impact, etc. Judy can send additional information to interested parties.

**Andrews Farm/Town Forest:** \$75-125 = 75k difference, what happens to that money if project finds additional funding? \$255k federal grant was received, requiring only \$75k from RCC Fund. \$50k could be used for parking lot, trail building, and some back to RCC. Bob Low feels the \$50k should be returned to RCC based on initial proposal from Andrews. Bob feels new application is required for use of any funds in excess of \$75k, if not for acquisition purposes. Should "leftover" \$50k RCC funding be used for parking lot or trail development? Need to look into official town language in vote. Original proposal was for land purchase only.

VHCB funding request is now \$100k, not sure if trail creation is included.

**Andrews Update Letter:** Reviewed letter sent from Bob Heiser with updated budget information. Mary wants us to speak with VYCC regarding help with with project, they are currently not contributing to the project. MOU with VYCC or VLT is recommended for trail development at Andrews Land.

This is a new town forest, there is 23 acres off Stage Road.

**Interim Management Team for Andrews Forest:** Federal Grant requires full plan in place prior to awarding money. 4 months from sale closing. RCC to help assemble team for management plan development. Closing is expected this summer.

Mary recommends Cecilia Danks and her students for management team. Grant application pending August grant decision. Will work with Hinesburg Town forest management team.

Can \$50k remaining RCC funding be used for any overall funding shortage for the land purchase? There could be a potential \$5k shortfall. Overall group mood is to have some portion of \$50k return to RCC.

**Town Energy Siting:** Act 174 – request April 30<sup>th</sup> from RPC define wind/solar constraints known & possible. Richmond to respond by June 16, Bob and Sean Foley sent a list of additional constraints based on Science to Action Richmond level evaluation, not State level. Gillette Pond, Andrews Forest and Bryant/Cochran Hill are key priority areas for Richmond Town recommendation. Purpose is to get seat at decision making table. Bob is communicating with Clare Rock re: comment deadline June 16<sup>th</sup>. Richmond Town has already met VT state 2050 target for renewables.

NR Working Lands – Planning Commission should use this document and focus on goals, targets and actions. Planning Commission has been notified.

**Upcoming Events:** Ian Stokes – wind power tours at Lowell Mountain. Info available online at Green Mountain Power website. June 24, July 5, 12, 22, August 3, 30. Ibit to forward email info.

Invasive weed opportunity: Does RCC want to apply for this? 1:1 match for cash/goods/services non-federal sources. Jon Kart is the go-to person here.

Invitation from Dan Albrecht for water meeting about Winooski River on June 26.

Huntington River Survey – why do we keep doing it? Non-runoff situations do have applicability. Key issue is identifying point sources for E. coli...sewers, etc. Farm runoff? Sampling has identified a potential point source area, Hinesburg Hollow in the past. High in high rain/water levels AND low rain/levels.

**21:15 Meeting Adjourned**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jake Davignon*